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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/523,334

01/28/2005

Siegfried Ginter

3401-146PUS

5762

27799

7590

08/06/2008

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EXAMINER

ROY, BAISAKHI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3737

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/06/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/523,334	Applicant(s) GINTER ET AL.	
	Examiner BAISAKHI ROY	Art Unit 3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/29/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Johnson et al. teach a method of producing a local temperature increase to the center of a tumor and less to the periphery in order to produce higher temperatures and ensure complete ablation at the center and minimize risk of thermal injury to surrounding healthy tissue [0105]. Therefore the temperature at the ablation is monitored and increased as necessary based on the proximity to the necrosis site. Upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is also made in view of recent developments to 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This new rejection is in view of the Interim Guidelines published on November 2005, incorporated into MPEP 2106 and views presented by the PTO on subject matter eligibility of process claims to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Bilski*, Appeal No. 2007-1130. Based on Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions, a § 101 process must be tied to another statutory class (such as an apparatus) and must positively recite the subject matter that is being transformed by identifying the material that is being changed

to a different state. Therefore the method claims must positively recite the tied apparatus and must also recite the end result or physical transformation taking place.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (2002/0077627). Johnson et al. disclose a method for producing a local temperature increase within a body of material such as a biological material containing the target region using focused sound signals in a target region, wherein the target region comprises a volume situated proximate to the focus of the focused sound signals [0098, 0105, 0109, 0111, 0120-0123]. Johnson et al. teach said method to include generating a sound signal in the target region by radiating the sound signal from a sound emitter in response to a pressure-time signal such that a magnitude of the pressure amplitude of the sound signal in the target region is larger than the expansion amplitude of the sound signal in the target region, and adapting the pressure-time signal such that the pressure-time course of the sound signals in the target region is adapted to a specific utilization of the non-linear propagation and attenuation properties of the material in the target region such that an increase in the temperature in the target region produced by the adapted pressure-time signal is greater than a temperature increase

produced by a sinusoidal pressure-time signal having the same power [0125-0126].

Johnson et al. teach the use of several superimposed mono-frequency signals [0049] superimposed with asymmetrical sound signals (fig. 31). The apparatus includes a piezoelectric emitter equipped with piezoceramics [0099] with natural resonances which differ from one another for producing at least two different sound signals acting simultaneously in the target region [0006, 0059, 0063, 0068, 0069, 0073, 0075].

Johnson et al. further teach the step of providing an ultrasound image using a picture-providing method [0067, 0068, 0104, 0106, 0108, 0117].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BAISAKHI ROY whose telephone number is (571)272-7139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 a.m. - 4p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3737

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian L Casler/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

BR
/B. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737